Title: Need for Four-Laning of NH-52 with Connectivity through Four-Lane Rail-cum-Road Bridge over Brahmaputra between Chandrapur and North Guwahati in Assam.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SHARMA (LAKHIMPUR): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister to the urgent need for four-laning of NH-52 with connectivity through a four-lane rail-cum-road bridge over Brahmaputra between Chandrapur and North Guwahati in Assam. Load-bearing capacity of the only bridge at Saraighat was not planned to accommodate the 500 per cent increase of traffic of the present time and is, therefore, drastically inadequate.

The urgency of undertaking the project is called for in the national interest to facilitate construction of two mega-hydroelectric power projects by NHPC, i.e., Subansiri Hydro Electric Project 5600 MW, and Siang Hydro Electric Project 13,700 MW. These two projects should be commissioned by giving highest priority which will make India power surplus within 15 years.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to consider this proposal as a national priority from the economic point of view. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways should be asked to take up repair, strengthening and double-laning of the existing dilapidated NH-52 with highest priority by allocating the required funds to the Border Roads Organisation within the current financial year.